

September 26, 2000

The Honorable Dan Glickman
Secretary, Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Glickman:

Last week, USDA held a forum on captive supplies in Denver. I understand you will be making a decision soon after the forum on the rules proposed by the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) to control captive cattle supplies. I want you to know you will have my support if you take strong, bold action in response to WORC's proposal.

Thousands of us have expressed support for WORC's proposal since it was presented to you. You have spoken out about the lack of competition in the livestock industry many times. USDA's study of captive supplies in Texas showed once again that when captive supplies go up, prices go down — at a cost to producers of more than one billion dollars a year, based on current levels of captive supplies.

Your National Commission on Small Farms recommended adoption of WORC's proposal. Commenters on the petition supported it by a ratio of 33 to 1. Organizations supporting adoption of the rules represent hundreds of thousands of producers and consumers.

WORC's proposed rule is good public policy. The big packers' use of captive supplies have decreased prices to cattle producers. They amount to unreasonable preferences for some livestock producers over others, in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. They hurt everybody in the end, both producers and consumers.

Farmers, ranchers, small businesses and consumers all support WORC's proposal. They will support your strong action to restore competition to livestock markets.

Sincerely,

Joanne Lockner
301 3rd St. N.W.
St. Lawrence, SD 57373